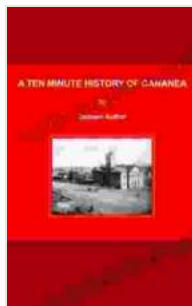


Ten Minute History of Cananea: The Epic Struggle of Mexican Labor and the Company That Tried to Destroy It

Nestled in the heart of Sonora, Mexico, the Cananea copper mine was once a symbol of both immense wealth and bitter struggle. In 1906, a strike by Mexican miners against the American-owned Greene Consolidated Copper Company erupted into a bloody confrontation that left dozens dead and forever altered the course of Mexican history.



A Ten Minute History of Cananea

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 6 pages
Lending	: Enabled



This article delves into the key figures, events, and consequences of the Cananea copper mine strike, offering a comprehensive overview of this pivotal moment in Mexican labor history.

Setting the Stage: Cananea and the Greene Consolidated Copper Company

Cananea, located in northern Mexico, was home to one of the richest copper deposits in the world. In the late 19th century, the Greene Consolidated Copper Company, led by American businessman William C. Greene, acquired control of the mine.

Greene Consolidated was notorious for its harsh labor practices. Miners worked long hours in dangerous conditions for meager wages. They were subjected to oppressive company rules and denied basic rights.

The Rise of Labor Unrest

As labor discontent grew, Mexican miners began organizing under the leadership of Esteban Baca Calderón, a charismatic labor leader and member of the Magonista movement, a radical political group advocating for social revolution.

Baca Calderón and his fellow organizers demanded better wages, improved working conditions, and the right to form a union. They also called for the nationalization of the copper mine, arguing that Mexico's natural resources should benefit its people.

The Strike of 1906

On June 1, 1906, tensions between the miners and the company reached a boiling point. After negotiations failed, the miners went on strike, demanding a 50% wage increase and recognition of their union.

Company officials refused to negotiate and instead hired armed guards to intimidate the strikers. Violence erupted, and on June 3, a confrontation between strikers and company guards left several dead.

Bloody Sunday and the Mexican Government's Response

The situation escalated further on June 10, known as "Bloody Sunday." Federal troops arrived in Cananea and opened fire on the striking miners, killing dozens and wounding hundreds.

The government's brutal suppression of the strike shocked the nation and sparked outrage. The event became a rallying cry for labor rights advocates and contributed to the growing revolutionary sentiment in Mexico.

Aftermath and Legacy

The Cananea copper mine strike had a profound impact on both Mexican labor history and the Mexican Revolution that began in 1910. The strike demonstrated the deep-seated grievances of Mexican workers and the government's willingness to use violence to suppress dissent.

The strike also showcased the power of organized labor and the importance of labor unions in fighting for workers' rights. It inspired the formation of labor unions throughout Mexico and contributed to the development of a strong labor movement.

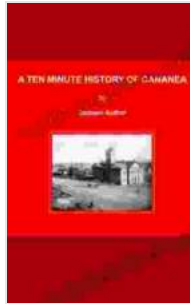
The Cananea copper mine strike of 1906 was a pivotal event in Mexican history, exposing the harsh realities faced by Mexican workers and the brutal tactics used by companies to suppress their demands. The strike's legacy continues to resonate today, highlighting the importance of labor rights and the enduring struggle for social and economic justice in Mexico.

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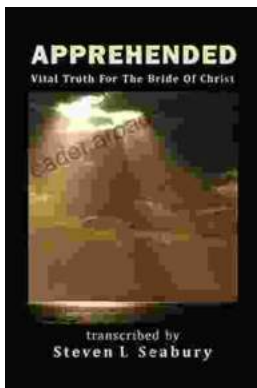
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